

## **Frank H. Beard School**

840 Waterman

Alternate name: James A. Garfield School

Local	v	3/16/84
State	v	3/20/84
State Marker		
National	v	1/26/84



**Frank H. Beard School**



### **Historic overview:**

Frank H. Beard School is one of the oldest remaining public schools in Detroit and one of the least altered. The building was designed in 1896 by the firm Malcolmsen and Higginbotham, architects of two others schools in Detroit for the Detroit Board of Education. The building is in the Victorian Romanesque style with semi-circular arched entrances, decorative brickwork and a variety of window shapes, sizes and a multi-planed roof. An addition was built in 1900 bringing the capacity of the school to 670 students.

The building was originally named for President Garfield but when school districts merged the name was changed to honor a very influential man in the education of Springwells Township. Frank H. Beard was director of the school board for 17 years and was instrumental in the hiring of teachers and the building of the new school. The previous school was a four-room building that soon became over crowded with the acquisition of Springwells Township in 1895 by the city of Detroit.

The school has been an active member in the community providing both student and parent activities and also participated in numerous war drives during World War II. With the construction of the Fisher Freeway in the 1960's, the school has faced declining enrollment and high maintenance costs. Today the school houses the Beard Early Childhood Center.

